

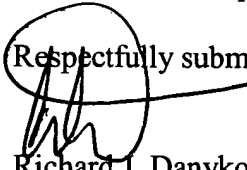
**Remarks**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. In this paper the applicant has canceled claims 1, 5, 9-12, 28-32, 34, 37, 38, and 40, all currently rejected. Such cancellation is without prejudice, as the Applicants reserve the right to pursue allowance in a continuation application.

All claims remaining after cancellation of the aforementioned claims, namely claims 3-7, 13-27, 33, 35, 36 and 39 were indicated as allowed in the office action of May 22, 2003. Accordingly the application appears to be in condition of allowance.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims of the present application contain patentable subject matter and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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